

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A battery comprising a wound electrode group accommodated in a battery case together with electrolyte, and a sealing plate that is configured to seal an open end of the battery case, wherein

the wound electrode group comprises an electrode stack that includes a lamination of a strip of positive electrode plate, a strip of negative electrode plate, and a pair of separators interposed therebetween so as to cover both surfaces of one of the positive and negative electrode plates, and

when the electrode stack is wound, a difference L in length between an inner turn and an adjacent outer turn satisfies $L = 2t\pi + (W \times k)$, where t is a thickness of the electrode stack, W is a maximum diameter of a cross section of the wound electrode group, and k is a coefficient that is preset in accordance with expansion coefficients of active materials of the positive and negative electrode plates and is within a range from 0.005 to 0.05.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a wound electrode group wherein an electrode stack is wound around ~~a winding core~~ winding cores to form a wound electrode group, the electrode stack being formed by laminating a strip of positive electrode plate, a strip of negative electrode plate, and a pair of separators interposed therebetween so as to cover both surfaces of one of the positive and negative electrode plates, the method comprising:

setting a spacer having predetermined dimensions at one or a plurality of locations between two adjacent turns of the electrode stack halfway in the process of winding the electrode stack and winding them, and

removing the winding cores and the spacer after fixing a winding end of the electrode stack with a fixing member after the completion of the winding process.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 2, wherein the electrode stack is wound into the electrode group such that a difference L in length between each turn of two adjacent inner and outer turns satisfies $L = 2t\pi + (W \times k)$, where t is a thickness of the electrode stack, W is a maximum diameter of a cross section of the wound electrode group to be formed by winding the electrode stack, and k is a coefficient that is preset in accordance with expansion coefficients of active materials of the positive and negative electrode plates during battery use; and the spacer has a thickness that achieves a total sum of the differences L .

4. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 3, wherein the coefficient k is selected from a range from 0.005 to 0.05 in accordance with the number of the spacers being set.

5. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 2, wherein the spacer is a bar-like member having a lens-like cross section with no sharp edges.

6. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 4, wherein the spacer is a bar-like member having a lens-like cross section with no sharp edges.

7. (New) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the difference L in length between the inner turn and the adjacent outer turn causes a clearance to exist between the inner turn and the adjacent outer turn.

8. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the spacer creates a clearance between the two adjacent turns of the electrode stack.